Allocation for providing irrigation facilities under Desert Development Programme

482. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated and utilized under the Desert Development Programme in different States, State-wise, during the last three years, year-wise, for providing irrigation facilities; and

(b) the hectares of desert land irrigated so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) A statement of amount allocated and utilized for conservation and development of water resources during the past three years, Statewise, is enclosed. [*See* Appendix CL, Annexure No. 19]

(b) An area of around 21,334 hectares of land benefitted by these schemes since inception of the Programme (upto December 1988).

Sale of Vegetables and Fruits by Mother Dairy Booths

483. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 50 per cent vegetables and fruits procured by Mother Dairy, Delhi are procured direct from the farmers or their cooperatives and if so, the details thereof indicating the actual amount paid to the other non-farmer suppliers during the last three years;

(b) whether farmers Cooperative were to be set up under this project and if so, the details of cooperatives set up and the of members-producers;

(c) what was the actual sales of these booths during the above period;

(d) whether any independent monitoring has been done to find out that the Mother Dairy does not itself turn into a middleman at the cost of producers in rural areas and consumers in Delhi; and

(e) whether fruit and vegetable Booths would be handed over to Consumer Cooperatives in order to introduce competition and improved management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes Sir, about 26,900 metric tonnes of fruits and vegetables were procured from farmers and non-farmers suppliers. An amount of about Rs 674 lakhs was paid to them during the last three years ending March, 1988.

(b) Set up of farmers cooperative structure is to be evolved based on the experience gained during the initial years of the operations. So far no farmers cooperatives were set up and hence there are no members.

(c) About 13,500 metric tonnes of fruits and vegetables were sold through the retail outlets during the last three years ending March, 1988.

(d) This was not considered necessary as the project is to benefit both the producers and consumers.

(e) No, Sir.

Erection of a TV Transposer to help better Transmission in the Shadow Zones of Visakhapatnam

484. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan authorities have decided to erect a television transposer at a suitable place in Visakhapatnam to help better transmission in the shadow Zones of Visakhapatnam;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Local administration is willing to hand over any site identified by the Doordarshan authorities for the purpose; and